

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2319
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, EGEN, SCUL, CZ
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR CALLS ON CHAIRMAN OF CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES (CSAV)

VIENNA FOR AGATT

REF PRAGUE 3263

1. SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR'S INTRODUCTORY CALL, CSAV OFFICIALS DID NOT ASK ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF EXCHANGES AGREEMENT BUT DID MAKE OTHER INTERESTING COMMENTS. COMMENT: FAILURE TO INQUIRE ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION PROBABLY INDICATES THAT GOC PREFERS TO LEAVE THIS QUESTION DORMANT IN HOPES CURRENT BILATERAL STRAIN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS WILL SOON EASE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 21, AMBASSADOR PAID INTRODUCTORY CALL ON ACADEMICIAN JAROSLAV KOZESNIK, CHAIRMAN, CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (CSAV) AND DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF THEORY OF INFORMATION AND AUTOMATIZATION. ALSO PRESENT WERE: DR. VLADIMIR LANDA, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF CSAV AND DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF ETOMOLOGY; MRS. HANA KLIMESOVA, CHIEF, DIVISION FOR RELATIONS WITH NON-SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, DEPT. OF
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FOREIGN RELATIONS, CSAV; AND AN UNIDENTIFIED INTERPRETER.
E/C COUNSELOR ACCOMPANIED THE AMBASSADOR.

3. HOUR-LONG MEETING, ONE OF SEVERAL MIN. FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS RECENTLY SCHEDULED FOR AMBASSADOR, WAS PLEASANT AND REASONABLY INFORMATIVE. CZECHOSLOVAKS FAILED TO QUERY US ABOUT USG PLANS TO IMPLEMENT BILATERAL CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL/SCIENTIFIC/

TECHNICAL

EXCHANGES AGREEMENT INITIALLED LAST DECEMBER. ALTHOUGH THEY MENTIONED AGREEMENT IN PASSING (SEE 4 A BELOW), CSAV OFFICIALS SEEMED ANXIOUS TO AVOID IMPLEMENTATION QUESTION, WHICH HAS BECOME CONTENTIOUS SINCE CHARTER 77 DEVELOPMENTS HAVE STRAINED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE MADE NO COMMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION.

4. MOST INTERESTING COMMENTS BY CZECHOSLOVAKS WERE:

(A) 1966 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN CSAV AND U.S. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, UNDER WHICH EXCHANGE OF SCIENTISTS OCCURS, IS STILL WORKING WELL. HOWEVER, CZECHOSLOVAKS EXPECT THAT MOU WILL BE "REVIEWED AND MODIFIED" TO RESOLVE MINOR PROBLEMS AND ESTABLISH PRIORITIES WHENEVER EXCHANGES AGREEMENT IS IMPLEMENTED.

(B) MOU NOW PROVIDES FOR 55 MAN-MONTHS PER YEAR FOR SCIENTISTS FROM EACH COUNTRY TO ENGAGE IN RESEARCH IN THE OTHER COUNTRY. NATIONAL ACADEMY HAS NOMINATED 27 AND CSAV 20 SCIENTISTS SO FAR THIS FISCAL YEAR, AND CZECHOSLOVAKS BELIEVE ALL BUT TWO OR THREE WILL BE APPROVED. RESEARCH PERIODS VARY FROM TWO WEEKS TO MANY MONTHS. CZECHOSLOVAK SCIENTISTS ARE MOSTLY INTERESTED IN DOING RESEARCH IN US IN BIOLOGY, AGRICULTURE AND MEDICINE, WHEREAS US SCIENTISTS SEEK TO VISIT CSSR FOR RESEARCH IN PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY AND MANY OTHER FIELDS.

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(C) REGARDING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE MAIN CONSTRAINT IS CAPACITY, NOT MONEY (CSAV YEARLY BUDGET IS ONE BILLION CROWNS, OR APPROXIMATELY \$175 MILLION AT CURRENT INFLATED OFFICIAL RATE). CZECHOSLOVAKS INTIMATED THAT CSSR HAS SAME PROBLEMS AS OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN COMMERCIALLY APPLYING RESULTS OF SCIENTIFIC RESULTS DUE TO BUREAUCRATIC ISOLATION OF RESEARCH INSTITUTES FROM INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES./

(D) ABOUT 18 PERCENT OF CSAV ACTIVITIES PERTAIN TO SOCIAL SCIENCES AND REMAINDER TO NATURAL SCIENCES. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER JINDRICH ZAHRADNIIK OVERSEES NATURAL AND DPM MATEJ LUCAN OVERSEES SOCIAL SCIENCE PROGRAMS.

5. AMBASSADOR STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND US SCIENTISTS HAVING OPEN ACCESS TO CZECHOSLOVAKS IF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE TO IMPROVE. HE PRAISED THE GOOD RECORD OF OUR BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, WHICH HAVE WEATHERED SOME DIFFICULT PERIODS

IN OUR OFFICIAL RELATIONS, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THESE CONTACTS WILL
EXPAND IN FUTURE. CSAV OFFICIALS SEEMED TO WELCOME THESE VIEWS BUT
AVOIDED ANY CONTROVERSIAL OR POLITICAL COMMENTS.

6. COMMENT: FAILURE OF CSAV OFFICIALS TO INQUIRE ABOUT USG PLANS
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF EXCHANGES AGREEMENT PROBABLY REFLECTS FACT GOC
PREFERS TO LEAVE IMPLEMENTATION QUESTION DORMANT FOR NOW IN HOPES
THAT CURRENT STRAIN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS WILL SOON EASE AND NOT CAUSE
USG TO BACK OFF FROM AGREEMENT WHICH GOC HAS LONG WANTED.
BYRNE

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